

Money

Turn Your Clutter into Cash

Holding on to ancient appliances, used car batteries or outdated electronic gadgets? Recycle them and make extra money—here's how.

BY PAULA DERROW



Take a peek in your kitchen junk drawer. Mixed in with the old rubber bands and dried-out ballpoint pens, you'll likely find outmoded devices, like that 1999 PalmPilot, or useless ink cartridges for a printer that broke during the Bush administration. But simply tossing everything feels wasteful and the landfills are plenty full already.

Luckily, there are online and in-store programs that allow you to recycle your stuff so it's put to good use—and often offer payment or credit in return. Get ready to beef up your bank account and feel virtuous, to boot.

CAR & TRUCK BATTERIES
Most local scrap dealers will pay for car batteries and other car parts. Find a dealer near you at iscrapapp.com

MAKE MONEY ON ELECTRONICS

» **GAZELLE.COM** and **YOURENEW.COM** are just two of the sites that will pay for your old phones, laptop and desktop computers, tablets, digital cameras and other devices. You typically type in information about your item, hit return and see what it's worth. A nearly 10-year-old Dell laptop can earn you \$69 from yourenew.com.



gazelle.com, a Nokia flip phone may be worth as much as \$20.

» **USELL.COM** works much like travel sites: You punch in your data and get a range of offers from several buy-back sites. A still-chugging four-year-old MacBook Pro garnered an offer of \$300 from abundatrade.com and \$160 from buymytronics.com

(which will even pay for broken gadgets). Shipping at these sites is usually free.

» If you prefer face-to-face interaction, **BEST BUY**, **APPLE** and **RADIOSHACK** have buy-back or recycling programs. At all Best Buy stores, you can trade in your old iPhone, cameras, video games and other items for a store gift card equal to its value. (Go to bestbuy.com/tradein for an estimate of what your stuff is

worth.) At Apple stores you can bring in your old iPod or iPhone and get 10% off the purchase of a new one. (Online, you can swap other items for gift cards. Go to apple.com/recycling/gift-card for the how-tos. An iPhone 3G in good condition, for instance, can earn you \$50.) And RadioShack gives you store credit for the value of your electronics if you bring them to the store.



2 MAKE MONEY ON CLOTHES

» Trend haven **H&M** will take two bags of unwanted clothes a day, in any condition, in return for two 15%-off coupons (you can use one for your next purchase and another in the future). The used items, which don't have to be from H&M, are sent to a processing plant and sorted for resale or turned into raw materials to make new products.

» Online, **USELL.COM** will buy back garments that are less than five years old from a list of hundreds of brands including Ann Taylor, Banana Republic and Gap. Visit the site to request a free prepaid shipping label to send your stuff in—the average customer earns \$50 for 22 items. Imagine the closet space!

3 MAKE MONEY ON USED INK CARTRIDGES

» **CASH4CARTRIDGESUSA.COM** will send you a check for between 50¢ and \$4.25 for certain brands of used cartridges, including Brother, Canon, Dell and more. No purchase required.

4 MAKE MONEY ON REFRIGERATORS & ACs



» In the market for a new fridge? Chances are your local energy company will pick up your old, less efficient refrigerator and cart it away at zero cost to you—and give you a chunk of change in return. On the East Coast, **CON EDISON**, for instance, will hand over \$50 for a still-working refrigerator or freezer, and \$20 for eligible window air conditioners.

ENERGY TRUST OF OREGON will give you \$40 for a working fridge. That money is on top of what you'll save on your utility bill with a more efficient model. For more information on the financial benefits of energy-smart appliances, visit womansday.com/energyefficient.

5 MAKE MONEY ON CDs, DVDs & BOOKS

» Purge your shelves of dust-collecting media by selling old movies, music, books and video games.

SECONDSPIN.COM will buy your used CDs, DVDs and video games—a DVD of *Zero Dark Thirty*

in good condition, for example, is worth \$3.50.

» And if your kids are parking their college textbooks in your attic, check out **CASH4BOOKS.NET**. The site will often pay for textbooks that are

published after 2010, as well as other newer books.

A popular art history text fetched more than \$17. And try **POWELLS.COM** to sell other fiction and nonfiction books that were published earlier.



GETTY (3)